

country. General Miollis, who commanded the French troops in Borne, could only throw himself, with his handful of men, into the Castle of St. Angelo, the famous mole of Adrian, in which was long preserved the treasury of Sixtus V. The French General soon found himself blockaded by the Neapolitan troops, who also blockaded Civita Vecchia and Ancona.¹

The treaty concluded between Murat and Austria was definitively signed on the 11th of January, 1814.² As soon as he

¹ The King put new blood into the public administration, not merely by the activity and firmness which he exerted but by his practical anxiety to give a proper direction to public affairs. The natural clemency of his character, which even conciliated those who were least likely to be moved by it, facilitated the execution of his intentions. On the first visit that Joachim made to Paris after the events just recited Napoleon exclaimed, when he saw him enter the *salon*, "*Voilà ?m roi qm ne recule jamais.*" Had Joachim better known how to organize his army and to maintain discipline between the French and the Neapolitan troops he would have succeeded in obtaining far better results. By nature generous, and by no means insensible to flattery, Joachim was extremely averse to inflicting punishment, and was prone to recompense not merely those who merited it but to reward others whose conduct should have entitled them to very different treatment. This happened because he could never resist the supplications of the courtiers, still less the entreaties of the ladies about the Court, and, like all princes, he was extremely liberal to those whom he termed *mes dévoués*, without reflecting that the less elevated a man is by nature the more devotion he affects to princes, and the more he flatters their power. The beauty of his person, the charm of his smile, the natural urbanity of his manner — to which, however, he was inclined to add more importance than was consistent with his proper dignity — and the richness of his dress, pleased the multitude and the army. The affability and gentleness of his manners, which were such as could not have been anticipated from a man of low birth, endeared him to the Court. In his youth, however, he had been placed at the College of Toulouse, and had availed himself to the utmost of the education bestowed upon him. I do not ever recollect having presented myself before him on my return from executing any of his orders without his expressing his thanks to me in the most amiable manner. One day he was returning from the Campo di Morte, when a woman in tears, and holding a petition in her hand, came forward to present it to him. The King's horse, frightened at the sight of the paper, began to kick and rear, and ended by throwing his Majesty some distance from the spot. After swearing roundly in the French fashion, Joachim took the paper and granted its petition, which was the life of the poor woman's husband, who was to have been executed on the following day.

People of all classes, and even officers in the army, were in the habit of presenting themselves to the King as he passed through the streets with a petition in one hand and an inkstand in the other. The good King Joachim granted those requests with too much facility, not considering that

far from increasing his popularity by such conduct his too easy compliance was calculated to awaken discontent and distrust of the efficiency of the laws (*Memoir of General Piche* vol. i. p. 263; Bentley, *ISW*).
On the 11th of February, 1814, Austria by treaty guaranteed Naples to Murat, who was also to receive territory containing 400,000 souls from the Papal States. Murat on his part renounced his *claims* to Sicily, and furnished 30,000 men against Napoleon (*Martens*, tome ix- p. 660). This was a strange step on the part of Austria, who soon began to yield to the requests of Louis